



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices **of the Assembly**

Wednesday, 28 April 2021 — No. 184
Nine forty a.m.

President of the National Assembly:
Mr. François Paradis

Part 1

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Chicoutimi on the following subject: *The passing of Dr. Jean Larochelle, pediatrician.*
- The Member for Bourassa-Sauvé on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Claude Taillefer, an exceptional volunteer.*
- The Member for Saint-Jean on the following subject: *Mr. Antoine Paquin, a 15-year-old autistic student, taking on the Autism Month challenge.*
- The Member for Robert-Baldwin on the following subject: *The Portuguese revolution of 25 April 1974.*
- The Member for Argenteuil on the following subject: *Municipal politics: calling on women and young people.*
- The Member for Gaspé on the following subject: *Large assembly for the integrated process for social development in Haute-Gaspésie.*
- The Member for Bourget on the following subject: *The 30th anniversary of Antre-Jeunes de Mercier-Est.*
- The Member for Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue on the following subject: *Mr. Alexandre Castonguay is the recipient of the Prix du CALQ award.*
- The Member for Soulanges on the following subject: *Earth week in Hudson.*

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Part 2

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE

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OTHER BUSINESS

I. Government Bills

Passage in Principle

(1) Bill 30

An Act to recover amounts owed to the State

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and
Chair of the Conseil du trésor on **14 June 2019**

(2) Bill 49

An Act to amend the Act respecting elections and referendums in
municipalities, the Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act and various
legislative provisions

Introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on
13 November 2019

Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain
(consultations) tabled on **27 April 2021**

(3) Bill 61

An Act to restart Québec's economy and to mitigate the consequences of the
public health emergency declared on 13 March 2020 because of the
COVID-19 pandemic

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and
Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 3 June 2020

Report from the Committee on Public Finance (consultations) tabled on
11 June 2020

Resuming the debate adjourned in the name of the Member for La Pinière on
12 June 2020

(4) Bill 83

An Act respecting mainly the health insurance plan and prescription drug insurance plan eligibility of certain children whose parents' migratory status is precarious

Introduced by the Minister of Health and Social Services on 10 December 2020

Report from the Committee on Health and Social Services (consultations) tabled on **22 April 2021**

(5) Bill 86

An Act respecting the demise of the Crown

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie on **11 March 2021**

Committee Stage

(6) Bill 23

An Act respecting the names and responsibilities of certain ministers and government departments and to enact the Act respecting the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 18 April 2019

Passed in principle on **19 September 2019**, and

Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

(7) Bill 39

An Act to establish a new electoral system

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Democratic Institutions, Electoral Reform and Access to Information on 25 September 2019

Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 11 February 2020

Passed in principle on **8 October 2020**, and

Referred to the Committee on Institutions

(8) Bill 59

An Act to modernize the occupational health and safety regime

Introduced by the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity on 27 October 2020

Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on 2 February 2021

Passed in principle on **16 February 2021**, and

Referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy

(9) Bill 64

An Act to modernize legislative provisions as regards the protection of personal information

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Democratic Institutions, Electoral Reform and Access to Information on 12 June 2020, and

Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 30 September 2020

Passed in principle on **20 October 2020**, and

Referred to the Committee on Institutions

(10) Bill 78

An Act mainly to improve the transparency of enterprises

Introduced by the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity on 8 December 2020

Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on 9 March 2021

Passed in principle on **14 April 2021**, and

Referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy

(11) Bill 79

An Act to authorize the communication of personal information to the families of Indigenous children who went missing or died after being admitted to an institution

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs on 9 December 2020

Report from the Committee on Citizen Relations (consultations) tabled on 13 April 2021

Passed in principle on **14 April 2021**, and

Referred to the Committee on Citizen Relations

(12) Bill 82

An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 10 March 2020

Introduced by the Minister of Finance on 11 December 2020

Passed in principle on **17 February 2021**, and

Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

(13) Bill 88

An Act to amend the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife and other legislative provisions

Introduced by the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks on 11 March 2021

Report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment (consultations) tabled on 20 April 2021

Passed in principle on **21 April 2021**, and

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Report Stage

(14) Bill 74

An Act to give effect to fiscal measures announced in the Budget Speech delivered on 10 March 2020 and to certain other measures

Introduced by the Minister of Finance on 2 December 2020

Passed in principle on 2 February 2021

Report from the Committee on Public Finance tabled on **22 April 2021**

(15) Bill 84*

An Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery

Introduced by the Minister of Justice on 10 December 2020

Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 2 February 2021

Passed in principle on 4 February 2021

Report from the Committee on Institutions tabled on **27 April 2021** (Amend. handed in under Standing Order 252)

*** Recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor**

Passage

II. Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

(16)Bill 190

An Act to exclude child support payments from income calculation under various social laws

Introduced by the Member for Sherbrooke on **7 December 2018**

(17)Bill 191

An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly to prescribe the publication of information on the use of the amounts granted to Members in the performance of their duties

Introduced by the Member for Gouin on **6 December 2018**

(18)Bill 192

An Act to recognize the Members' oath to the people of Québec as the sole oath required for Members to take office

Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **28 February 2019**

(19)Bill 193

An Act to establish a budgetary shield to protect education, child and youth protection services

Introduced by the Member for Joliette on **7 February 2019**

(20)Bill 194

An Act to ensure compliance with Québec's climate change-related obligations

Introduced by the Member for Jonquière on **21 February 2019**

(21)Bill 195

An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly to extend the scope of the right to payment of expenses for counsel

Introduced by the Member for Chomedey on **11 April 2019**

(22)Bill 196

An Act to amend the Act respecting safety in sports to establish a Passe-Sports register to collect data on the state of health of persons under 18 years of age following a concussion

Introduced by the Member for Marquette on **11 April 2019**

- (23) Bill 198
An Act to facilitate disclosure of wrongdoings
Introduced by the Member for Rosemont on **9 May 2019**
- (24) Bill 199
An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act to establish a right of citizen initiative in environmental matters and reinforce the powers and independence of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement
Introduced by the Member for Mercier on **25 September 2019**
- (25) Bill 391
An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act in order to assert the primacy of Québec's jurisdiction in this area
Introduced by the Member for Jonquière on **30 May 2019**
- (26) Bill 392
An Act respecting the selection of Québec senators
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **9 May 2019**
- (27) Bill 393
An Act to affirm Québec's participation in the appointment process for Québec Supreme Court of Canada judges
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **16 May 2019**
- (28) Bill 396
An Act to amend the Civil Code to provide that an action for damages for bodily injury resulting from a sexual aggression, from childhood violence or from the violent behaviour of a spouse or former spouse cannot be prescribed during the lifetime of the author of the act
Introduced by the Member for Sherbrooke on **12 June 2019**
- (29) Bill 397
An Act to reinforce oversight of the processes to select, renew a term of or dismiss directors of municipal police forces
Introduced by the Member for Vaudreuil on **14 November 2019**
- (30) Bill 398
An Act to proclaim Québec Democracy Day
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **20 February 2020**

- (31) Bill 399
An Act to establish a presumption of consent to organ or tissue donation after death
Introduced by the Member for Pontiac on **5 November 2019**
- (32) Bill 490
An Act to establish the gradual electrification of Québec's vehicle fleet
Introduced by the Member for Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques on
26 September 2019
- (33) Bill 491
An Act to combat food waste
Introduced by the Member for Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue on
12 November 2020
- (34) Bill 492
Right-to-Disconnect Act
Introduced by the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on **3 June 2020**
- (35) Bill 493
Interculturalism Act
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **30 October 2019**
- (36) Bill 495
An Act to authorize the recording of sound and images during the public sittings of a municipal council or the public meetings of a council of a metropolitan community
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **20 November 2019**
- (37) Bill 496
Parliamentary Budget Officer Act
Introduced by the Member for Rosemont on **14 November 2019**
- (38) Bill 497
An Act to amend the Charter of human rights and freedoms in order to strengthen the protection of seniors' rights and create the office of Seniors Ombudsperson
Introduced by the Member for Rimouski on **4 December 2019**

(39) Bill 590

An Act to amend the Charter of the French language to establish free French instruction services for every person who resides in Québec
Introduced by the Member for Jacques-Cartier on **4 December 2019**

(40) Bill 591

An Act to amend the Charter of the French language to define the circumstances under which an employer may make knowledge of a language other than the official language a requirement for access to employment or a position
Introduced by the Member for Matane-Matapédia on **12 February 2020**

(41) Bill 594

An Act to improve the quality of care through the setting of ratios in certain institutions governed by the Act respecting health services and social services
Introduced by the Member for Pontiac on **26 May 2020**

(42) Bill 595

An Act to create the Rent Register
Introduced by the Member for Laurier-Dorion on **4 June 2020**

(43) Bill 596

An Act to establish Pharma-Québec
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **15 September 2020**

(44) Bill 597

An Act to improve support offered to entrepreneurs and farmers in relation to mental health
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **10 June 2020**

(45) Bill 598

An Act to authorize the holder of a restaurant sales liquor permit to sell, for takeout or delivery, spirit-based alcoholic beverages
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **12 June 2020**

(46) Bill 599

An Act to respect sexual orientation and gender identity
Introduced by the Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis on **22 September 2020**

(47) Bill 690

An Act to amend the Charter of the French language to specify that it applies to private enterprises operating in an area of federal jurisdiction
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **24 September 2020**

(48) Bill 691

An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère des Transports to maintain air transportation services in certain regions of Québec
Introduced by the Member for Mont-Royal–Outremont on
30 September 2020

(49) Bill 692

An Act to amend the Act respecting safety in sports to prohibit fighting in sports activities in which persons under 18 years of age participate
Introduced by the Member for Marquette on **21 October 2020**

(50) Bill 693

An Act to amend the Election Act to prevent and fight sexual violence in the context of political activities
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **22 October 2020**

(51) Bill 695

An Act to set a standard for the maximum concentration of manganese in drinking water
Introduced by the Member for Vaudreuil on **9 December 2020**

(52) Bill 696

An Act providing for the temporary suspension of the right to increase the rent for a lease of a dwelling
Introduced by the Member for Laurier-Dorion on **10 February 2021**

(53) Bill 697

An Act to promote the disclosure of wrongdoings and strengthen the protection of whistleblowers
Introduced by the Member for Jonquière on **17 March 2021**

(54) Bill 698

An Act to temporarily limit the charges that restaurateurs may be required to pay for online order services and meal delivery services
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **18 February 2021**

(55) Bill 699

Act to promote integration of immigrants by organizing welcome ceremonies for newcomers
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **1 April 2021**

(56) Bill 790

An Act to amend the Act respecting labour relations, vocational training and workforce management in the construction industry to right the power imbalance
Introduced by the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on **15 April 2021**

(57) Bill 792

An Act to enhance the transparency of municipal councils
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **14 April 2021**

(58) Bill 794

An Act to amend the Act respecting the Institut de la statistique du Québec to facilitate the production and circulation of statistical information
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **21 April 2021**

Committee Stage

(59) Bill 197

An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act to fight planned obsolescence and assert the right to repair goods
Introduced by the Member for Chomedey on 9 April 2019
Passed in principle on **13 April 2021**, and
Referred to the Committee on Citizen Relations

Report Stage

Passage

III. Private Bills

Hearings and Clause-by-Clause Consideration

(60) Bill 209

An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Tite

Introduced by the Member for Maskinongé on **4 December 2019**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(61) Bill 214

An Act respecting Ville de Sutton

Introduced by the Member for Richmond on **12 November 2020**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(62) Bill 215

An Act respecting Municipalité de Nominigüe

Introduced by the Member for Labelle on **12 November 2020**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(63) Bill 216

An Act to amend the Act respecting the establishment of a special taxation
scheme for the Corporation de gestion du port de Baie-Comeau

Introduced by the Member for René-Lévesque on **21 October 2020**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(64) Bill 217

An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic
Archiepiscopal corporation of Montreal

Introduced by the Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis on **11 November
2020**, and

Referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy

(65) Bill 219

An Act respecting an immovable located on Rue University in Montréal

Introduced by the Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis on **11 November
2020**, and

Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

Passage in Principle

Passage

IV. Government Motions

V. Estimates of Expenditure

(66) Estimates of Expenditure for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2022 tabled by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 25 March 2021 and referred for consideration of the standing committees on **30 March 2021**

VI. Statutory Debates

BUSINESS STANDING IN THE NAME OF MEMBERS IN OPPOSITION

Part 3

BILLS PASSED

(Bills awaiting Royal Assent)

Part 4

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES

*The detailed calendar of the proceedings of each committee
is available on the Internet site of the Assembly*

COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Hearing of the Auditor General of Québec on her 2018–2019 annual management report and financial commitments.
- Hearing of the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor on the Report on the application of the *Public Administration Act*.
- Hearing of the Public Curator on Chapter 6 of the Auditor General of Québec's November 2019 report entitled "Protection of Incapacitated Persons Under Public Protective Supervision".
- Hearing of the Société d'habitation du Québec on Chapter 4 of the Auditor General of Québec's October 2020 report on housing projects entitled "AccèsLogis Québec Programme: Réalisation des projets d'habitation" as a follow-up to recommendation 2.1 of the 41st report from the Committee on Public Administration.
- Hearing of the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques on Chapter 2 of the Sustainable Development Commissioner's June 2020 report entitled "Eco-Taxation, Cross-Compliance and Eco-Responsibility for a Green and Responsible Economy".
- Hearing of the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques and the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation on Chapter 3 of the Sustainable Development Commissioner's June 2020 report entitled "Conservation of Water Resources".
- Hearing of the Ministère de la Famille on its administrative management and financial commitments, as well as on Chapter 2 of the Auditor General of Québec's October 2020 report entitled "Access to Educational Childcare Services".
- Hearing of the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation on its administrative management and financial commitments.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Order of reference

- Examination of Hydro-Québec's Strategic Plan 2020-2024 (Order of reference given on 5 December 2019).

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Surveillance of public bodies and accountability:

- Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the Régie de l'énergie.

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 209**, An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Tite (Order of reference given on 4 December 2019).
- **Bill 214**, An Act respecting Ville de Sutton (Order of reference given on 12 November 2020).
- **Bill 215**, An Act respecting Municipalité de Nominingue (Order of reference given on 12 November 2020).
- **Bill 216**, An Act to amend the Act respecting the establishment of a special taxation scheme for the Corporation de gestion du port de Baie-Comeau (Order of reference given on 21 October 2020).

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Surveillance of public bodies and accountability:

- Hearing the Commission municipale du Québec.

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Statutory order

- Hearing the heads of educational institutions at the university level.

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 59**, An Act to modernize the occupational health and safety regime (Order of reference given on 16 February 2021).
- **Bill 78**, An Act mainly to improve the transparency of enterprises (Order of reference given on 14 April 2021).
- **Bill 217**, An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic Archiepiscopal corporation of Montreal (Order of reference given on 11 November 2020).

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 23**, An Act respecting the names and responsibilities of certain ministers and government departments and to enact the Act respecting the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (Order of reference given on 19 September 2019).
- **Bill 82**, An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 10 March 2020 (Order of reference given on 17 February 2021).
- **Bill 219**, An Act respecting an immovable located on Rue University in Montréal (Order of reference given on 11 November 2020).

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Quarterly examination of the Government's budgetary policy and of the evolution of public finance.

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 39**, An Act to establish a new electoral system (Order of reference given on 8 October 2020).
- **Bill 64**, An Act to modernize legislative provisions as regards the protection of personal information (Order of reference given on 20 October 2020).

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 79**, An Act to authorize the communication of personal information to the families of Indigenous children who went missing or died after being admitted to an institution (Order of reference given on 14 avril 2021).
- **Bill 197**, An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act to fight planned obsolescence and assert the right to repair goods (Order of reference given on 13 April 2021).

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 88**, An Act to amend the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife and other legislative provisions (Order of reference given on 21 April 2021).

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE ACT RESPECTING END-OF-LIFE CARE

Order of reference

Special Consultations:

- Examine the issues related to extending medical aid in dying to persons who are incapable of caring for themselves or who are suffering from a mental illness.

Part 5

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

*Questions already placed on the Order Paper
are published each Wednesday*

(189) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **9 February 2021**
To the Minister of Finance

On 10 November 2017, Québec's Minister of Finance made public the Tax Fairness Action Plan. This action plan was a follow-up to the National Assembly's Committee on Public Finance (CPF) report on the tax havens phenomenon, published in March of the same year.

Two recommendations in the CPF report were not retained by the Québec government in the Minister of Finance's Action Plan (recommendations 5 and 6):

“5. Tax dividends received in Québec that have been subject to foreign deductions.

6. Grant a tax credit equal to the foreign income tax paid rather than allowing the income to be brought back into Québec tax-free.”

The Action Plan states that “In 2017, 29 of the 35 OECD member countries had a tax system allowing the repatriation of earnings through tax-exempt dividends or provided some exemption for such dividends.” (Action Plan, p. 157)

My questions to the Minister of Finance with respect to Measure 5 of the action plan are as follows:

- What is the assessment of losses Québec will incur by refusing to adopt these two recommendations?
- What is the assessment of the impacts of collecting the tax on dividends imposed by six of the 35 OECD member countries?
- Has Québec entered into discussions with the federal government and the other provinces in order to form a united front with respect to the taxation of these dividends?

(190) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **9 February 2021**
To the Minister of Finance

On 10 November 2017, Québec's Minister of Finance made public the Tax Fairness Action Plan. This action plan was a follow-up to the National Assembly's Committee on Public Finance (CPF) report on the tax havens phenomenon, published in March of the same year.

Measure 2 of the Action Plan states that "Québec asks the federal government to send it the information obtained under bilateral tax treaties with other countries."

In February 2018, the Minister of Finance testified before the CPF members that under the current tax agreements, only information obtained from France and the United States could be transmitted to Québec by the Canada Revenue Agency. However, these tax agreements would allow Québec to obtain information on Québec companies conducting business abroad.

Measure 3 of the Action Plan states that "In order to make full use of the information obtained through measures 1 and 2, Québec is setting up the Intervention Group specializing in international tax planning to use the financial and tax data".

My questions to the Minister of Finance with respect to Measure 2 of the action plan are as follows:

- To what extent does the government of Québec currently obtain from the federal government the information obtained by the latter under,
 - the tax agreements Canada is a party to?
 - the country-by-country reporting implemented in the context of the OECD BEPS initiative, which Canada has been receiving since 2017?
- Does the information provided to Québec by the federal government make it possible, on the one hand, to determine the volume of business and profits being made by transnational corporations in Québec and, on the other hand, to determine the profits diverted to jurisdictions elsewhere for lower tax rates?

- Given its sovereignty in fiscal matters, how does Québec intend to address the situation if it has not received information to ensure tax fairness for Québec companies compared to transnational companies?

My questions to the Minister of Finance with respect to Measure 3 of the action plan are as follows:

- For each year since the publication of the Action Plan, how many people have been part of the intervention group specializing in international tax planning (full-time equivalent employees – FTEs)?
- What is the actual amount of money spent by Revenu Québec for this specialized intervention group?
- What objectives have been set for hiring personnel for this group, particularly for professionals specializing in international tax planning?
- Have those objectives been achieved for each of the years since the publication of the Action Plan?
- Is a progress report on this group's work available and if so has it been tabled before the Committee?
- What is the proportion of the personnel assigned to work on businesses compared to personnel assigned to work on individuals, keeping in mind that only 5% of the funds that transit through tax havens belongs to individuals?
- Considering this proportion (the 5% mentioned above), should the focus be more on tax planning for businesses than for individuals?

(191) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **9 February 2021**
To the Minister of Finance

On 10 November 2017, Québec's Minister of Finance made public the Tax Fairness Action Plan. This action plan was a follow-up to the National Assembly's Committee on Public Finance (CPF) report on the tax havens phenomenon, published in March of the same year.

Measure 5 of the Action Plan states that "Québec will support the Canada Border Services Agency to ensure collection of Québec sales tax on tangible properties from abroad and sold by companies without a physical or significant presence in Québec".

We know that Measure 5 has not yielded the expected results. However, a pilot project on border tax collection will be established in 2021 in accordance with what was announced in the context of the presentation of the 2020 budget: “Given the shared determination of both governments, Québec will work with the federal government to implement in 2021 harmonized rules for the collection of the QST and the GST/HST by foreign suppliers”. (Source: Budget 2020–2021, Additional Information, p. B.4)

My questions to the Minister of Finance regarding Measure 5 of the action plan are as follows:

- What is the status of discussions with the federal government regarding this pilot project and what are the main issues?
- Has the Ministère des Finances updated its 2017 estimate for Québec sales tax revenue losses on tangible properties from abroad sold by companies without a physical or significant presence in Québec? If so, what are the estimated losses for 2020?
- Has the Ministère des Finances studied the negative impacts of this privilege for local stores and businesses? If so, what are the conclusions?

(192) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **9 February 2021**
To the Minister of Finance

In 2013, member governments of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the G20 initiated a major overhaul of international tax rules, which resulted in the creation of the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) project. The objective of this project was to revise the rules in force so that they would be better adapted to the world economy and in harmony with it. The goal was therefore to ensure that profits are taxed in the countries where economic activities are carried out. One of the main issues identified as being at the root of the BEPS phenomenon is the lack of coordination between national rules. In addition, the constantly changing global economic environment often leads to gaps in international rules. Lastly, significant widespread gaps in data and information knowledge were also found.

The 2013 Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting identified 15 actions, along three fundamental pillars: “introducing coherence in the domestic rules that affect cross-border activities, reinforcing substance requirements in the existing international standards and improving transparency, as well as certainty for businesses that do not take aggressive positions”.

In October 2020, the Inclusive Framework on BEPS (grouping of over 125 countries and jurisdictions collaborating on the implementation of measures arising from the BEPS project) released the work programmes of the two pillars resulting from the BEPS project, namely:

1. Solutions to better allocate taxing rights across jurisdictions (nexus and profit allocation);
2. Development of a system to ensure that multinational corporations pay a minimum level of tax on profits.

My questions to the Minister of Finance are as follows:

- Has the Ministère des Finances or Revenu Québec carried out an analysis of how Québec would be affected by the proposal made by the OECD last October (pillars One and Two)?
- Has the Ministère des Finances or Revenu Québec carried out an assessment of the revenue that could be generated for Québec if the OECD proposal (pillars One and Two) were implemented?
- Considering how difficult it is to reach a multilateral agreement on digital economy taxation, would it not be wise for Québec to introduce a new temporary tax on the turnover of companies in the digital sector, as certain jurisdictions such as France have done?
- Given that harmonization of such a temporary tax on the digital economy with the federal government would be desirable, have the Ministère des Finances or Revenu Québec entered into discussions with their federal counterparts on this subject?
- In the context of major budget deficits due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the concomitant increase in the revenues and profits of the giants of the digital economy, does the Minister consider it appropriate that the government of Québec explicitly request that the federal government implement a temporary tax on digital economy businesses?

(193) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **9 February 2021**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Many elderly people who live in private seniors' residences (PSRs) in my riding and throughout Québec are being affected by a dramatic increase in their rent costs exceeding the inflation rate. I understand that PSRs are experiencing higher operating costs due to the pandemic, as are many businesses, however not all seniors live in luxurious residences and the vast majority simply cannot afford this increased burden. Some seniors do not have family support and the elderly often fear reprisals. Senior citizens have a limited ability to pay because 60% of those aged 65 and older have an income of less than \$30,000 per year.

My question is the following:

Can the Minister quickly implement specific measures to protect seniors from these unacceptable increases by implementing an assistance program to support small residences experiencing financial difficulty or by raising incomes for seniors living in these residences?

(216) Mr. Tanguay (LaFontaine) – **18 March 2021**
To the Minister of Justice

On 14 April 2020, the Honourable Judge Claude Dallaire made an important judgement (*A v. Attorney General of Quebec*, 2020 QCCS 3375) in which he ordered the Attorney General of Quebec and Ms. France Rémillard to pay damages to the plaintiff as a result of the actions of a public servant of the Ministère de la Justice.

Once the facts of this case were made public by the newspaper *La Presse*, the Minister mandated Ms. Lise Verreault to conduct an internal investigation into the compliance of the current management mechanisms and procedures of the Autorité centrale du Québec (ACQ). The report was submitted to the Minister on 17 December 2020 and subsequently made public.

With regard to this matter, I would like to ask the Minister the following questions:

- What actions have been taken to follow up on each of report's recommendations so far?
- How many people are currently employed by the ACQ? Can he provide their names and functions, a description of their duties and who they report to?
- Can he tell us what procedures have been put in place to ensure control and accountability mechanisms?
- Lastly, can the Minister tell us what Ms. France Rémillard's current functions are within the Ministère de la Justice?

(217) Ms. David (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) – **18 March 2021**

To the Minister Responsible for the French Language

On November 4, 2019, the Conseil supérieur de la langue française released a study entitled “Pratiques linguistiques des ministères et organismes publics du gouvernement du Québec”. The report contains an analysis of the governmental language policy adopted in 2011. The report reveals that just under 40% of government employees are aware of the existence of this language policy. Therefore, a large proportion of government employees cannot apply the policy in their day-to-day work and in their interactions with Québec citizens.

The day after the publication of this report, the Minister Responsible for the French Language issued a press release in which he stated that he had read the report and that he wanted to rectify the situation quickly.

Now that 16 months have passed since the Minister's commitment to rectify the situation, can the Minister tell us what actions have been taken to improve language practices within government departments and agencies?

(221) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **25 March 2021**

To the Minister of Higher Education

In recent years, several controversies have erupted in Québec due to the absence of chemical validation. A recent example is the fire at a chemical plant in Trois-Rivières that resulted because no chemist was employed by the company.

Despite the fact that almost 3,000 chemists are members of the Ordre des chimistes du Québec (OCQ), it is reasonable to assume that a large number of individuals practise chemistry in Québec illegally and without adequate controls. This phenomenon has dramatically increased in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular with regards to the production of hydroalcoholic gel.

In addition, the professional practice of chemistry has evolved considerably in recent years and today has many ramifications that are not considered in the *Professional Chemists Act* (the Act), currently in effect. The lack of a defined framework for practising a field of biochemistry is also problematic. In this sense, the microbiologists represented by the Association des microbiologistes du Québec (AMQ) recently stated that they wished to be integrated into the OCQ. In order to ensure the independence of the analysis process and the competence of the individuals employed who are responsible for carrying on activities related to the profession of microbiology, it is important that this be supervised without further delay by the OCQ, which already offers to its members the levers and tools required to practise in the field of microbiology.

In addition, within the framework of the consideration of Bill 98, An Act to amend various legislation mainly with respect to admission to professions and the governance of the professional system, the OCQ obtained the support of the Minister of Justice for updating the Act. The Minister, who was a member of the Opposition at the time, had urged the Government in place to proceed with the update quickly.

It is therefore essential that the Act be updated without delay for the good of the Québec population.

Given the above, our questions to the Minister responsible for the administration of legislation respecting the professions are the following:

- In light of this information, will the Minister responsible for the administration of legislation respecting the professions commit to updating the *Professional Chemists Act*?
- If so, within what time frame?

(223) Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) – **30 March 2021**
To the Minister of Public Security

On Friday, 21 August 2020, during the period of appropriations for the Ministère de la Sécurité publique, I had asked the Minister what actions had been taken after her office received complaints about favouritism in what had become known as an organized system of political appointments for the promotion of Sûreté du Québec officers.

Based on the answers obtained, I had asked the Minister to inform the members of the Committee on Institutions of the following elements and to get back to us with the answers:

1. Who handled the complaints received by her office;
2. If the Minister had verified the Sûreté du Québec's officer promotion process;
3. How many complaints had her office received;
4. Were those in charge who were the subject of these complaints of favouritism informed of the allegations against them;
5. What did the Minister intend to do to ensure a fair promotion process for everyone.

Following this publicly made request, the basis of which is in the day's debate transcripts, the members of the Committee on Institutions have been waiting more than seven months for answers from the Minister and her department to these five questions.

During question period on 24 March 2021, I asked the Minister if her executive secretary, Mr. Cédric Lavoie, had had the time to inform her of the matter and the complaints he had received in November 2019.

Can the Minister inform and tell us what specific actions have been taken following the receipt of these complaints and provide answers to the five questions previously asked during the appropriations for the Ministère de la Sécurité publique on 21 August 2020?

(224) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **30 March 2021**
To the Government

The situation in western Bas-St-Laurent continues to deteriorate, with an increasing number of new COVID-19 cases. We are even reaching a record number of cases since the pandemic started. More and more people are worried that the region will become a red zone.

If that should happen, I wonder whether public health would penalize eastern Bas-Saint-Laurent which has an epidemiological record similar to that of our neighbours in the Gaspésie region, which is at the yellow level. Before the holidays, the CAQ government had decided to divide eastern and western Bas-Saint-Laurent in two. It is therefore possible to do the opposite at a time when the situation seems to be getting worse in the regional county municipalities in the western part of the region.

But according to the regional director for public health, it was the Minister of Health and Social Services who decided that the regions would not be split this time, contrary to before the holidays when KRTB remained orange while the regional county municipalities of Rimouski-Neigette, La Mitis, La Matapédia and La Matanie had become red zones.

The director was clear, stating that it was a political decision and that they had been told it would be like that for all regions this time: no divisions.

Therefore, my question is the following:

At a time when the region is concerned about becoming a red zone, with an increasing number of cases in the regional county municipalities of western Bas-St-Laurent, can the Minister explain to us on what basis he decided that it is no longer possible for a part of the region to remain an orange zone, contrary to before the holidays?

(225) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **31 March 2021**
To the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change

Last October 7, the Coalition des opposants à un projet minier en Haute-Matawinie (COPH), a coalition of citizens from various sectors of the municipality of Saint-Michel-des-Saints, sent a letter to the Minister concerning the Matawinie mining project and progress on recommendations made by the BAPE commissioner in report 353 released in June 2020. To date, the COPH has not received a response from the Minister.

In his letter of introduction accompanying the commission's report, BAPE president Philippe Bourke stated that the commission of inquiry examined the project from a sustainable development perspective and that in this regard, the report brings to the attention of the decision-making bodies concerned various elements that require commitments, actions or modifications, before the possible issuance of government authorizations.

For the sake of transparency, we would like to know the state of progress and the results of the recommendations made by the commission in its report.

In the report's conclusion, the commission states that given the social acceptability issues important at the time of the public hearing, but recognizing the complexity of integrating this project into an inhabited resort area, it believes that Nouveau Monde Graphite (NMG) should carry out the recommended assessments to reduce uncertainty about aspects the area considers valuable, in particular, water quality, quality of life, cohabitation, property values and mining legacy effects. Based on the results of these assessments, improvements should be made by the project developer and then evaluated by the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MELCC) before authorization of the project.

In its report, the committee also states that the MELCC must ensure that it obtains nine additional assessments from the project developer.

I would therefore like to ask the Minister of the Environment the following questions:

1. What assessments have been carried out by his department and by the project developer since report 353 was tabled by the commission in June 2020?
2. Were the assessments completed before the project was authorized by his department?
3. Will the assessments be made public?

(226) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **1 April 2021**
To the Government

Passe-Partout is an educational program that facilitates the first transition to school for 4-year olds and their families. It is recognized that children who have participated in Passe-Partout are likely to be less vulnerable in kindergarten. That is why parents should have access to this program by choice.

This educational program has been offered for more than 40 years and it is unique in that it supports parenting skills while facilitating the first transition to school. This program may be offered in parallel with the 4-year old kindergarten program and is a great complement to the various educational childcare services. The Passe-Partout program benefits participating children in numerous ways. It makes it possible to reach children who do not attend any educational childcare service before the age of five and to identify their vulnerabilities and needs before they start school. It is necessary to have all the tools to act quickly if a child is experiencing difficulties.

In the current context of the pandemic and as regards changes in kindergarten for 4-year olds, I have learned that many school service centres have reduced the number of Passe-Partout groups.

Funding for the Passe-Partout program is capped, so these cuts will be permanent.

It is a matter of two different educational programs that can co-exist.

My questions are as follows:

Is it possible to suspend the funding cap on the Passe-Partout program in the budget rules for school service centres so that the spaces not being used during the pandemic can be funded in future years?

Is it feasible to review the terms of the Passe-Partout program for 2022–2023 with regard to the recommendations of the department's assessment report, including the updating of the organizational framework and budget rules so that the program can be implemented throughout Québec?

(227) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – 13 April 2021
To the Government

In principle, anyone whose physical or mental health has changed is required to undergo an automobile driving assessment. If a person's driving abilities are affected following an illness, they must be assessed by an occupational therapist, which is normal. However, age must not be a criterion of discrimination. Many elderly drivers must take a Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) road test. If they fail the test, the SAAQ often requests that they consult an occupational therapist. The current fee of \$650 for an occupational therapist and the one-year wait time for an appointment are unacceptable.

In the past, this service was offered free of charge by the region's Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS). For the past few years, this service has been offered solely by private practitioners and there has been an increase in costs that has become difficult for elderly people to pay. The stress of undergoing such an assessment is compounded by the anxiety caused by the financial costs.

In a democratic society such as ours, which has strong social values, how is it that we have come to this point where we have totally eliminated this public service that was necessary for a large part of the population?

In my opinion, ageism exists when seniors are discriminated against compared with younger people. A young person can retake his or her road test without having to consult an occupational therapist.

My question is the following:

Will the Government reconsider this rule in order to provide the population, including seniors, with a public occupational therapy service?

(228) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **15 April 2021**
To the Government

The Québec government acquired the ports of Rimouski, Matane, Gaspé and Gros-Cacouna from the Canadian government on 30 March 2020. It took three years of negotiations to complete the acquisition. According to the President and CEO of the Société portuaire du Bas-Saint-Laurent et de la Gaspésie, Ms. Anne Dupéré, we inherited structures from the federal government that were in very poor condition. Structures whose deterioration is accelerated each year by snow and wind storms.

Time is of the essence, and due to Ottawa's neglect in past years, it seems obvious that a lot more time will be required to modernize these ports that are key for eastern Québec's economy. According to the port corporation, work is not slated to begin before 2023 or 2024, "provided everything goes well".

The transfer of property from Ottawa to Québec City was accompanied by a cheque for nearly \$150 million to carry out this work, which is considered major. People closely involved in this issue are convinced that the \$150 million from Ottawa will not be enough. This is a matter of concern to the port corporation's board of directors.

My question is the following:

Can the Government confirm the timelines for work to begin and does it think that the \$150 million transferred from Ottawa will be sufficient to modernize these four ports? If not, does it intend to take the matter up again with Ottawa, which is responsible for the deterioration of these ports, or does it intend to provide the funds for the work itself?

(229) Ms. Weil (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) – **20 April 2021**
To the Minister of Higher Education

On 7 October 2021, the Ordre des chimistes du Québec (OCQ) sent the Minister a letter to express its serious concerns regarding three matters and propose a solution, which is to update the Professional Chemists Act.

First, the OCQ expressed a grave concern about the obsolescence of the Professional Chemists Act, which was enacted in 1964 and hampers efforts to adequately fight the illegal practice of chemistry and protect the public.

Second, the lack of an adequate framework for the profession of microbiologist creates a major risk for the population that is well-documented. The OCQ is concerned about a possible increase in disinformation regarding the current health situation.

Lastly, the OCQ deplores that the current Act prevents foreign-trained chemists' integration into the order and the labour market because it disregards all the chemistry experience that a qualified and competent candidate has acquired in their career.

The Ordre des chimistes du Québec proposes to remedy these three problems through the legislative review of the Act, which would include updating the definition of chemistry, ensuring the integration of microbiologists into a joint order with chemists and facilitating the integration of foreign-trained chemists.

Can the Minister tell us her orientations and timetable for updating the Professional Chemists Act?

Can the Minister tell us if a new bill will be introduced during this legislature?

(230) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **21 April 2021**
To the Government

After a year of the pandemic, better support for people living in poverty is clearly not the priority of the Québec government. And yet we are talking about 800,000 people who are unable to cover their basic needs in Québec... Should that not incite us to revisit social solidarity models borrowing from guaranteed basic income?

Last week, at the federal level, the office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) presented the results of the exercise that had led it to publish its first estimates in July 2020. It explained that it had applied, across Canada, the policy parameters of a small-scale pilot project carried out on a sample of 4,000 people in 2017. The Ontario Liberal Party had introduced the measure before Doug Ford's Progressive Conservative Party ended it after the 2018 election.

According to the PBO, a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) would reduce the poverty rate in Québec by more than 60.4% and by 49% overall in Canada. These estimated reductions in the poverty rate are calculated according to the Market Basket Measure (MBM), which is based on the average price of basic goods and services.

Why not try a pilot project in Québec? Organizations coming together to form a common alliance for all of Bas-Saint-Laurent, Gaspésie and Îles-de-la-Madeleine support the idea of testing a basic income or basic income guarantee project in all these regions over a period of 20 years.

The goal is to ensure a safety net for everyone, whether illness strikes or a person wants to make a career change.

According to one of the project promoters, Yves Bonnier Viger, public health director for Gaspésie and Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the experiments done around the world have always given results that point us in the same direction: reducing mortality, violence, emergency room visits, hospitalizations, etc.

According to him and according to basic income proponents, it has also been demonstrated that those who receive a basic income do not “enrich themselves” and do not stop working. In fact, the contrary was observed. Once social assistance and other programs are replaced, the project will cost an estimated \$800 million, but this amount is expected to diminish over time.

For the moment, the alliance wishes to discuss the best approach to take for a two- or three-year period. After that, the pilot project could take place over a 20-year period.

The relevance of such a project is even more important since it would take place in a socio-economic environment that amplifies isolation and social exclusion and further deepens inequalities.

My question is the following: Is the Ministère de la Solidarité sociale willing to participate in such a pilot project as that supported by the public health director for Gaspésie and Îles-de-la-Madeleine?

(231) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **22 April 2021**
To the Government

Considering the historically low vacancy rate in the Rimouski CMA (0.9% according to the most recent CMHC statistics) and considering the market reality observed through negotiations with the majority of private property-owners participating in the Rent Supplement Program (RSP), it is possible that any of a number of problems related to the lack of available affordable housing may arise in the coming months, specifically in Rimouski's urban sector. We are headed straight for a July 1st crisis.

Also, in the current context, it is foreseeable and probably that housing problems could arise because some households will not qualify as eligible applicants with the Office d'habitation Rimouski Neigette (OHRN). And that the OHRN would then have few resources to participate in the resolution of these issues, except for temporary last-resort assistance (e.g. in a situation where someone is experiencing homelessness).

Since 1 July 2020, the OHRN and its partners have seen a significant increase in homelessness. Notably, some citizens lived in tents or seasonal dwellings, and with the arrival of winter some required emergency assistance. Although the OHRN was able to provide support to a number of such applicants experiencing difficulties, it and its partners noted that some of those citizens experiencing difficulties did not meet the criteria for available social housing programs.

Options are limited in such situations. Partners offering temporary sheltering have often been overwhelmed by demand, because transitional housing (1 and a half, studio) on the market is all already fully occupied. Organizations working in the housing sector in neighbouring RCMs have confirmed that they are experiencing the same problem (extremely low vacancy rate for affordable housing, pressure on the rental and real estate market due to positive migration, and a lack of options for citizens who need larger dwellings).

In addition, this housing scarcity raises concerns that the already precarious situation experienced by low- and modest-income renter households could deteriorate even further, as average rent prices continue to increase. The average monthly rent for a three-bedroom dwelling increased by 5.7% over one year, while the CPI increased by only 0.8%.

The various partners involved in the provision of social housing are concerned that in the current context renter households forced to move may simply not find an affordable place to move to. These are all citizens who need social housing right now but are being forced to wait for months, if not years.

It is therefore important that those involved in this field come up with a comprehensive solution for citizens who are not eligible for social housing, or who are eligible but find themselves on a long waiting list, and as a result are falling through the cracks. Various partners, including public health authorities, social services, municipalities and their various partners are assuming their responsibilities as best they can, but the reality is Rimouski needs at least 305 additional housing units.

My question is threefold:

Given the situation with regard to the housing crisis in Québec, where are the 15,000 housing units the CAQ government promised would be built?

Given the rise in housing prices in Québec, are there any means that will be put in place to avoid speculation and the unacceptable increase in the cost of housing?

Will municipalities and community partners receive any special assistance to deal with what is looming on July 1st and the shortage of affordable housing that is apprehended?

(232) Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) – **28 April 2021**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services

On 26 November 2018, the Government announced the expansion and restructuring of the emergency department of the Hôpital de Jonquière in the Jonquière riding. The announcement stated development of the functional and technical program was authorized to begin.

Our questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services are as follows:

Will the Minister of Health and Social Services authorize the stage for the plans and specifications essential to carrying out the work in the coming weeks, given that delays will influence the timeline?

Will the Minister of Health and Social Services commit to realizing the Hôpital de Jonquière emergency department project by 2024, as provided for in the initial timeline?

(233) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **28 April 2021**
To the Minister of Economy and Innovation

On 24 April, we learned that a trade dispute between Canada and Australia was going to penalize Québec's small wine producers. The agreement provides for new fees on Québec bottles sold in grocery stores and convenience stores. Those fees could reach \$6 per bottle, which would add a degree of difficulty to selling this type of product in grocery stores. The new measure represents another barrier for Québec's wine and mead producers.

My question is the following:

Is the Minister of Economy considering allowing wine and mead producers to sell online and ship their products directly to the client to counter the negative impacts of this new provision?

Part 6
NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

Private Members' Public Bills

Private Bills

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME